

Jordan School District Adopts an Energy Action Program

Jordan School District didn't set out to build a super energy-efficient school in Utah's largest School District. Duane Devey, Director of Energy and Utility Resources, says, "It happened by accident," when, in 1995, a ballast shorted out in the Oquirrh Elementary School, starting a fire that destroyed the entire building. This event was the turning point in the district's energy-efficiency movement as they searched for new technologies that could have prevented the disastrous fire.

Measures Taken

Since 1995, the school district has built three high schools, two middle schools and eight elementary schools and energy-conscious measures were used in the building process. Devey believes, "These buildings are built so efficiently that they should qualify for the ENERGY STAR[®] label." Older buildings are also joining the ranks of becoming more efficient. Half of all Jordan schools have installed T-8's, replaced the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, or retro-fitted walls and modular classrooms.

The District—which spends over \$8 million annually on utilities—became interested in creating a comfortable, stimulating learning environment for their students that would also reduce long-term operating costs. The District wanted to implement energy-efficient measures and realized that education was key to the success. The District foresaw students

being instrumental in adopting necessary energy-efficient practices. Following the initial two years of developing the program and working in conjunction with the National Energy Foundation, the Jordan School District received a two-year, \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The District began the Energy Action in Schools Program in 1996 with seven schools volunteering to pilot the program. Receiving the grant was the major incentive for applying energy-efficient measures to continue with the program.



Oquirrh Elementary, rebuilt after a fire destroyed the original building in May 1995.

National Energy Foundation

The National Energy Foundation (NEF), a non-profit educational organization, has become a national leader in teacher training and student programs, as well as development and distribution of instructional materials. NEF works with businesses, government agencies and the educational communities.

PARTNERSHIP FACTS:

- **Targeted Buildings:**
Educational Facilities
- **Square Footage Invested:**
8.7 million square feet
- **Estimated Cost Savings:**
Approximately \$140,000 a year
- **Benefits:**
Returning the generated savings back to the individual schools instead of the usual general municipal tax fund

The mission of NEF is to provide teaching and learning opportunities, that promote a better understanding of energy, natural resources and the environment. NEF's mission is reflected in the resource materials produced and in the implementation of their Energy Action in Schools Program.

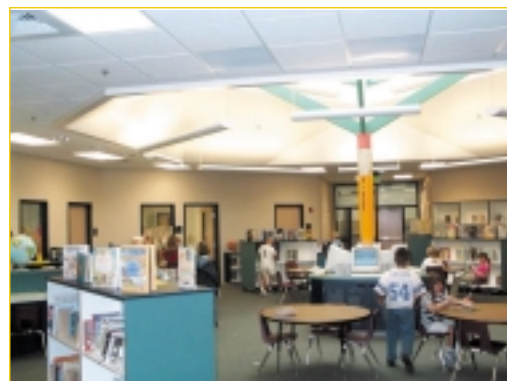
Energy Action Schools Program

Duane Devey approached Dari Scott, Academy Director with NEF, regarding his desire to get his school district to play a more active role in energy-efficiency. He especially wanted a program that was affordable and met the goals and objectives of the school district—to reduce utility costs and upgrade older schools with newer technology. Scott presented the Energy Action in Schools (EAIS) Program in spring 1996 to the school district's Energy Committee, made up of school superintendents, financial representatives, and curriculum leaders. The committee decided to forge ahead with NEF's concept and implemented the EAIS program that fall.

In its first year, seven elementary schools volunteered to take part in the pilot program. The program consisted of students actively doing energy audits, measuring water temperature, working with custodians, educating others about conservation issues, and taking part in reporting their findings to the principal on a weekly or monthly basis—depending on how the teaching is structured.

The first year was remarkably successful in terms of energy efficiency, saving the school district \$30,000. On average, each school is saving anywhere from \$300 to \$1,000 a month. For the past four years of involvement with NEF,

savings have continued to increase. "The more that people are aware, energy is conserved, and money is saved," Scott believes.



Students enjoy the bright cheery atmosphere of the new media center.

Results That Work!

With the success of last year alone, the school district saved \$107,247. Because of the success of the 37 schools participating, approximately \$71,000 of the savings generated was given back to the individual schools. With the savings, one school bought playground equipment; another replaced 17-year-old history textbooks, while another school was able to add to their administrative budget.

Recently, the Utah Office of Energy Services (UOES) was awarded a grant with Rebuild America. UOES plans to use the Jordan School District as a model for 10 more school districts in Utah and six school districts in Wyoming over the next two years. NEF's goal is to get other school districts associated with Rebuild America because of what the partnership exemplifies—helping communities become stronger, cleaner and more environmentally and economically sound through wiser energy use.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT, CONTACT:

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Visit the Rebuild America Web site at: www.rebuild.org
Or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732

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